

Farm and Range.

Eccentric Fruit Trees.

The correspondent of the TIMES at Westminster sent, in his budget, a few days ago the following:

"Fruit trees here seem to be 'all broke up.' One will find, in some varieties, apples three-quarters grown, fruit buds just commencing to swell and fruit in all intermediate stages, all on one tree. Peaches are also 'off'; trees utterly barren of leaves are well filled with fruit half-grown. And figs are also strangely inclined to show fruit of all sizes at the same time. Pears and apricots continue the even tenor of their way."

This fairly states the case of a considerable proportion of the deciduous trees throughout Los Angeles county and Southern California. Last year they manifested much the same tendency. In some cases, apricots and pears show the same eccentricity as that alleged of peaches and apples. The peculiarity is attributable to one of two causes: (1st) Either the trees hold their leaves in the fall and early winter longer than they should and thus prolong the dormant season far into the next summer; or, (2d) the sap is started prematurely by the warm weather of January or February and the trees receive a setback from the cold of March, so that the sap is vitiated and the putting out of leaves at the proper season is rendered impossible.

As yet it may be said that deciduous fruit culture in Southern California has not emerged from the experimental stage. Apples, pears, peaches and apricots which flourish in much colder climates than ours are growing here, and no man can tell what the ultimate effect of our all-the-year-round sunshine is going to be upon them. We know from examples that have already been brought to attention that some of these show a tendency to change their habits. It has been but a fortnight since a gentleman brought to the TIMES office apples picked from his trees, half matured and matured. These apples were from fall blossoms, and they grew through the winter. The writer once had an experience with apple trees which showed how easy it would be to change their habit. Late in the fall, as the result of an unusual hot spell, the leaves of his apple orchard began to shrivel up and fall. Apprehensive lest the trees might be ruined, he gave them a thorough irrigation. The result was that they immediately shed new leaves and wood. This growth flourished through the winter and the next summer the trees were dormant.

What may be accomplished in the way of changing the habits of our deciduous trees, or what it may be desirable to accomplish is yet an unsolved enigma. It is a pity that there is not a Government or State experiment station here to test the matter in a thorough and scientific manner.

As to the peculiarly acting peach, apricot and prune trees, perhaps they will perform the experiment for themselves. The fact that for two successive seasons many of them have not seen fit to put forth their leaves until about the last of June or first of July is evidence that they have something unusual on hand.

This is one of the most interesting horticultural problems in Southern California, and we hope to hear more of it from our subscribers and correspondents. It is a subject that may well enlist the investigation of all, and we shall be glad to have both reports of experience and theories.

About Corn Planting.

The Westminster correspondent of the TIMES-MIRROR sends the following:

Corn planting is still the order with some of our farmers, and the following from the pen of the writer's father is well worthy of a trial. The suggestions were published for the farmers of Northeastern Pennsylvania, but are as deserving of consideration here as there; and the result here will be as surprising as it has been there.

"As the season for planting field corn in our county is approaching, permit me through your paper to make a suggestion to our farmers."

"I was taught, in my youth that the kernels of corn growing near the top of the ear were unfit for seed and should never be planted, and our practice was to shell the corn from the tops of our seed corn ears, and give to the chickens, and plant only what grew on the rest of the ear."

"A few years ago, as an experiment, I shelled the kernels from the well-filled tips of two small ears of sweet corn, which my gardener had selected for planting in my garden, and while he was planting one end of four rows from the central part of the ears, I planted at the other end of the same four rows, five hills in each row (20 hills in all), from what I had shelled from the tips. I carefully watched the progress of growth from the two qualities of seed, and was greatly surprised by the result."

"The corn from the tips came up two days before the other, tasseled out and shelled out several days before the

other, and when both were fully tasseled out, those twenty hills stood in a body more than a foot taller than the rest of the rows—the difference in height showing distinctly as far as the rows could be seen. The earing was quite as numerous and the length of the ears greater on those twenty hills than on the others."

"One of my neighbors who saw the difference tried the same experiment the following year, and has continued to plant wholly from the kernels growing on the well-filled tops, and says that by so doing successfully he has changed the length of the ears of the short-eared 'Minnesota Early,' which he began with."

"Now my suggestion to our farmers is this: That each farmer who has his seed corn on the ear should select a few ears which are well-filled over the tips, and shell off, not exceeding one inch in length, from a sufficient number of ears to furnish seed to plant a few square rods, say not less than twenty feet wide and fifty feet long, (and larger if convenient); plant this seed in a part of his field with stakes or other marks to designate its locality, and adjoining its several sides to plant seed taken from the central part of the same ears and then carefully watch the growth of both, keeping a record of the date of planting, the date of coming up, of tasseling, of silking, and of maturing of each; and noting also the difference in number and length of the ear to the hill, from each planting, and then each report the result of his experiment."

The Raisin Outlook in the Upper San Gabriel Valley.

After visiting the young Muscat vineyards of our section, we are bound to confess our surprise at the fullness of the vines with well-filled bunches of grapes. We were a resident of the Santa Ana valley ten years and never in that time did we see finer prospects at this season of the year, for a large yield of raisin grapes. It has been thought by some that it was impossible to produce a good raisin grape in this part of the San Gabriel, and it may yet prove true, but we certainly have one of the finest showings for a good crop this year we have ever had. It may be that our judgment has been too hasty, as none of our vines were in full bearing, in fact very few vineyards of the raisin varieties are more than three years old. If this year's crop proves a successful one—and at present we see no reason why it should not—we will have added to our beautiful valley another industry. One thing will be in favor which is detrimental to the raisin business in the lower valleys, and that is our freedom from fog. While we can see banks of fog hanging over the valleys below us for several days at a time, the sun rises and sets clear here, which would give us a vast advantage during the drying season. We earnestly hope that this valley will make a success of the culture and manufacturing of raisins.

LIVE STOCK NOTES.

Be irregular in salting, and the milk will show it in quality.

Too long pulls on a heavy road often hurt the wind of a horse. When they begin to breathe heavily it is time to give them a "blow."

Consular returns now show that actual purchases of wool this season for America from Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide aggregate 23,419 bales.

A farmer who has for three years practiced culling the largest and plumpest kernels of wheat, says he knows of a certainty that his crop improves.

Artificial eyes are now furnished for horses that have lost an optic by accident. A glass eye helps the look of a horse, even if he cannot look through it.

An egg broken in the feed once or twice a day will tone up a horse's system and make his hair more glossy. But special foods are to be used only for emergencies.

A Nebraska farmer, who has been experimenting with blue grass, concludes that all Northern Nebraska will prove to be one of the finest tame-grass countries in the world.

It is an easier matter to keep the stables clean and orderly than it is supposed by those who have not tried it. If you are one of this number begin it at once and see if it is not true. Dr. Sturtevant, at the New York Experimental Station, found that mulching the soil lightly between the rows of peas with straw retarded the attack of mildew very perceptibly. It is the late-sown crop that suffers.

The average importation of horses from Canada into the United States for some years past has been about 25,000 head. A few years ago the average value per head of horses so imported was \$95, whereas last year it was \$140.

The cattle of the Indian Territory and Texas are said to be ready for the trail, and it is estimated that the spring drive will reach 300,000 head. The drive will not be as it has been heretofore, through Western Kansas, but will be along the national trail, just over the State line in Colorado.

The quality of the food eaten by a cow always influences the milk. Certain foods eaten by animals will change the quality of the flesh and even the bone. It pays, especially in the making of first-class butter and cheese, that attention be given to the food eaten as well as to the manipulation of the milk.

E. F. Moorhouse, 148 N. Spring St. Jobbing in carpenter work. Stop-ladders and orange ladders a specialty. Agent for Continental windmills. Prices made reasonable for sale, put up and guaranteed. Telephone 241.

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The Oregon Lumber Company have lately opened a splendid assortment of

OREGON PINE and California Redwood Lumber

Of every description at their New Yard on

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We have a fine stock of Laths, Pickets, Shingles and Finishing Lumber of a superior quality. We are also prepared to fill orders on short notice for building material of every description. Particular attention paid to orders for unusual lengths and dimensions. Orders solicited. J. A. HUBB.

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Will make Regular Trips to this charming resort, commencing about July 1st.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

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This beautiful and popular route is now in first-class order and regularly traversed by pleasure seekers. Easy trail, scenery of unsurpassed grandeur and beauty, best accommodations by the way and on top. Parties are conducted regularly twice a week by an experienced guide, and with trained and careful animals. Lunch at Cananda station, mouth of canyon, 5 miles from Pasadena. Terms—For the annual, round trip, \$5; board and lodging per day \$2, or \$10 a week. Parties go up Tuesdays and Saturdays on arrival of morning train from Los Angeles; return Mondays and Fridays in time for afternoon train. Parties will be met at either of the Pasadena hotels. Address G. F. SWITZER, Pasadena Postoffice.

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Sierra Madre Foothills.

OPEN FOR RECEPTION OF BOARDERS.

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Offers for Sale several thousand Acres of

Choice Fruit and Grape Land

The tract comprises one of the most beautiful and prolific valleys in California, with an average elevation of a thousand feet above the level of the sea.

For Health, Fertility and Productiveness

This valley is unsurpassed. Both soil and climate are equally adapted to all kinds of Fruit, Cereals and Vegetables.

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And facilities for irrigation superior. The water is also unsurpassed in purity and softness

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The location is peculiarly exempt from dry or hot winds or frosts, and is especially adapted to those suffering from throat or lung diseases, and those in delicate health from whatever cause. There could not be a more favorable location for

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Pomona is on the Southern Pacific Railroad, thirty-two miles east of Los Angeles, and is a flourishing town of fifteen hundred inhabitants, with churches, schools and business facilities of every kind. The land will be divided into tracts of forty acres and less, and will be sold, with water, at from

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For \$22 this machine and WEEKLY MIRROR, postage paid, for one year.

This machine is the first of its kind ever offered the public at factory prices, and cannot be bought from agents for less than the regular selling price, \$75. It is the high-arm pattern, has self-setting needle; cannot be run backward; has automatic cut-off for driving belt, which prevents it from being run backward, thus avoiding all dangers of breaking thread or needles. It is a noiseless, light-running machine, as compared by an illustrated book of instructions that no less everything so plain and simple that any lady or child can master it. We call it the MIRROR HIGH-ARM SEWING MACHINE, and we warrant it to give full and entire satisfaction in every case, or it may be returned to us within ten days after the subscriber has received the same, if it fails to be as represented, at our expense, and the money will be refunded.

The above cut represents our HIGH-ARM MIRROR SEWING MACHINE, the very latest improved machine of the high-arm style; a complete embodiment of all the most recent improvements in sewing machine mechanism; a model selected by us after a careful and critical examination and test of the various machines in the market.

Having arranged with the manufacturers to supply us with these machines in large quantities for spot cash at our very nearest cost, we can save our subscribers at least \$35 on the price of each machine.

As this is the first time a Sewing Machine of this character has been offered to the public at about manufacturers' cost, we feel confident our readers will promptly take advantage of this opportunity to provide themselves with first class high-arm machines, which obtained in any other way would cost them almost three times the amount.

We could fill several columns expatiating on the merits of this high-arm machine, but to save the reader's patience we will simply say that it contains all the modern improvements in sewing machine mechanism; a complete embodiment of all the most recent improvements in sewing machine mechanism; a model selected by us after a careful and critical examination and test of the various machines in the market.

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